



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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1948 FISH CATCH IN U. S. TOTALS $4\frac{1}{2}$
BILLION LBS.; SAN PEDRO TOP PORT

1948 was a healthy year for the U. S. fishing industry, according to statistics released today by the Fish and Wildlife Service. The total commercial catch was normal, but fishermen received a record income, production of canned and frozen fish was high, and consumption of fishery products in the United States increased.

U. S. fishermen landed 4.5 billion lbs. of fishery products during the year (record catch: 1941 — 5.2 billion lbs.). Value of the total catch exceeded 1947's record income of \$302 million. The catch was processed into products retailed at about \$1 billion, the Service estimated.

San Pedro, Calif., remained the nation's top fishing port, recording landings of 460 million lbs. of fish, principally pilchard (sardines), tuna, and mackerel, valued at \$30 million to the fishermen. Gloucester, Mass., with landings of 250 million lbs., chiefly rosefish, valued at \$11 million, was the second leading fishing port, in total volume of the catch.

San Diego, Calif., and Boston, Mass., were tied for third place, both recording landings of 200 million lbs. of fish. Landings at San Diego, chiefly tuna, were valued at \$35 million (making it the first port with respect to the value of the catch). Boston's landings, principally haddock and cod, were valued at \$16 million.

Landings of menhaden, used almost entirely in the manufacture of meal and oil, amounted to 950 million lbs., the top catch for one species. Next in total catches were salmon, 400 million lbs., and Pacific coast pilchard, 360 million lbs.

Record catches of rosefish (245 million lbs.) and tuna (326 million lbs.) were made in 1948.

The year's pack of canned fishery products was about 750 million lbs., about the same as in 1947. A record 290 million lbs. of frozen fishery products were produced. Production of fish meal totalled 188,000 tons, about the same as in the previous year; of fish oil, 15 million gallons, slightly less than 1947's production.

Estimates placed the consumption of fishery products in the United States at 11 lbs. (edible weight) per person during the year. Domestic markets for fresh and frozen fishery products are increasing, the Fish and Wildlife Service declared, because of improved handling facilities and practices, which now permit wide distribution to inland areas.

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